

Miami-Dade County | Health Department

Annual Report 2011



Make Healthy Happen Miami

The Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) is tackling obesity through the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) program, an initiative of the US Department of Health and Human Services. CPPW invested \$372.8 million over two years to fund around 50 communities around the country. After receiving a grant of \$14.7 million in 2010, the MDCHD and its CPPW partners began the challenge of making policy, systems, and environmental changes to reduce obesity by promoting healthier food options and increasing access to physical activity.

Many local challenges helped to make the case for the implementation of this program. Because the community is struggling with poor nutrition and inactivity, serious health problems such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer are prevalent. In addition, the choices that lead to poor nutrition and inactivity are often more available, affordable and convenient than healthier options. And although there have been previous efforts to cope with these issues, they have been fragmented and uncoordinated. The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade, sponsored by the MDCHD, helped the community confront these challenges with the implementation of CPPW and coordinated efforts through partnerships and resource leveraging.

Community Overview

The obesity rate and the number of overweight adults in Miami-Dade County is 67.4%. Nearly 13 percent of high school students are considered obese and nearly 90% did not attend a daily physical education class at school. CPPW is working to improve those numbers by producing long-lasting outcomes and making healthier choices available through changes in the community. Efforts include making fresh fruits and vegetables available in convenience stores, expanding the number of farmers' markets county-wide, improving access to physical activity in schools, and increasing the prevalence of worksite wellness programs. Partnerships with local organizations have been essential to these goals.



Partner Organizations

Alliance for a Healthier Generation
Bochika, Inc.
CBS Television Stations, South Florida
Circle of One Marketing, Inc.
City of Miami, Capital Improvements Program
City of Miami- Police Department
City of North Miami, Community Planning and Development
Consulting Registered Dietitians, Inc.
Department of Children and Families
Earth Learning, Inc.
Foundation for a Breastfeeding Culture, Inc.
Garden of Ian, LLC.
Health Council of South Florida, Inc.
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade
Miami-Dade County Health Department, Women, Infants and Children
Miami-Dade County Health Department Worksite Wellness
Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Food and Nutrition
Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Physical Education and Health literacy
Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces
South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association
South Florida Regional Planning Council
The Food Trust
University of Miami Mailman Center
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Urban Oasis Project, Inc.
VSBrooks Advertising, Inc
Youth L.E.A.D, Inc.
War on Poverty, Inc.



CPPW Highlights

Getting the word out about the CPPW initiatives was an important way to motivate community involvement. The CPPW's media campaign, known as Make Healthy Happen Miami, has been instrumental in publicizing community efforts on local TV and radio stations, billboards and print. To reach the diverse Miami population, there are separate outreach campaigns in Spanish (Haz Tu Salud Realidad Miami) and Creole (Fe Sante Mache Miami), with respective websites at www.haztusadrealidad.com and www.fesantemache.com. CPPW's Make Healthy Happen Miami also reaches out through social media and local events to educate the public about its initiatives.

Efforts include child care centers, farm-to-school nutrition, physical activity in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, access and consumption of healthy foods via convenience stores, farmers' markets, breastfeeding practices and facilities, active transportation and recreation, safe routes to schools and worksite wellness. Although public health has traditionally focused on interventions like treatment and vaccines, these community-based initiatives can be more effective in reducing rates of obesity. By addressing poor nutrition and lack of physical activity, a significant impact can be made on preventing serious health problems.

Community Successes

More than 3,000 childcare staff members were trained in over 1,000 childcare centers and childcare programs on nutrition and physical activity. About 100,000 children will potentially benefit from this initiative.

A total of 634 childcare centers and childcare family programs have revised their menus to offer healthier options.

Eleven of the county's 14 hospitals and birthing centers have committed to take steps towards earning the Baby-Friendly Hospital designation, and to implement a worksite wellness policy.

A total of 64 and 182 bicycle racks were installed in the cities of North Miami and Miami, respectively, and 21 bicycle racks throughout parks in the City of Miami.

The number of public elementary schools implementing the Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK) curriculum increased from 40 to 240.

Forty healthy vending machines have been installed at high schools.



Community Response

Work continues in an effort to build sustainability programs into each of the goals of CPPW's Make Healthy Happen Miami. The Consortium will work with partners to continue the many initiatives started as a part of the grant. Make Healthy Happen Miami is proud of the progress that has been made in the fight against obesity. Although our work may not be complete, we can take pride in what has been accomplished and look forward to the future.







Our Challenge

The Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) protects our community from a wide range of public health threats such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and other communicable diseases in general. Our activities include identifying health risks, maintaining a safe and healthy environment, investigating and preventing the spread of disease, promoting healthy lifestyles, and informing the public on health issues.

Our broad approach to public health includes environmental health, family planning, refugee health, immunizations, nutrition for women, infants and children, and the prevention of chronic diseases.

We also participate in disaster planning and facilitate the staffing of shelters for people with special health care needs in the event of hurricanes or other disasters. Furthermore, we maintain the county's vital records of births and deaths, develop school health projects and educate the public on healthy behaviors such as avoiding tobacco use, injury prevention and more.


We have three locations, in the northern, central and southern regions of the county, and operate other health clinics that serve specific local areas.

We have twice received the Governor's Sterling Award for significant improvement and performance excellence, demonstrating our commitment to the health and safety of the communities we serve.

Created by the Florida Legislature in 1997, MDCHD is the local branch of the Florida Department of Health.

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**Imagine
what we can
do together.**

Vision

A healthier future for the people of Florida.

Mission

To protect and promote the health of all residents and visitors in Miami-Dade County.

Values

Integrity, Customer and Community Focus, Accountability, Teamwork, Excellence, Respect for People, Learning, and Continuous Improvement and Innovation.

Strategic Priorities

1. Prevention & Preparedness
2. Return on Investment
3. Service Excellence



From the Mayor

To the Miami-Dade County Community:

It is with great pleasure that I join the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) in presenting its Annual Report for 2011.

The health department's strategic vision made it eligible for a grant by Communities Putting Prevention to Work, a national initiative that funds innovative approaches to public health. This funding allowed the MDCHD and its local partners to deploy the Make Healthy Happen Miami project, which has made Miami-Dade County an excellent environment for being healthy.

This past year, the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department began working with the Make Healthy Happen initiative to create more green spaces and bicycle lanes for residents to be active. Additionally, the Miami-Dade County Public School system began a joint effort with the health department's School Health Program to provide healthier meal options and wellness education to our youngest residents. The expansion of healthier vending options among schools will benefit close to 100,000 students.

These are just some of the joint ventures we've established with the MDCHD, and there are many more to come. I am very proud of the partnerships we have developed, and would like to thank MDCHD staff and officials for their unique dedication to the institution of public health.

Together, we can forge a better future for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gimenez', written in a cursive style.

Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor







From the Administrator

To the Community:

It's with great honor that I present to the community the 2011 Annual Report. These pages not only detail the many accomplishments and objectives of the Miami-Dade County Health Department, but also provide a valuable review of our success, efficiency, and quality as a public health organization.

A central part of the Strategic Plan we developed for 2007 to 2012 was to continue and enhance the performance excellence for which we were twice recognized. This has entailed improving customer satisfaction, engaging with community partners, and developing an innovative approach to public health.

Just this past summer, the department was given the esteemed "Model Practice Award" by the National Association of County and City Health Officials, in recognition of our dynamic Influenza Surveillance initiative, which is used to detect flu and other disease outbreaks. The program was included in a national database as a model for others to follow. We are one of only 41 local health departments recognized for such a high standard of public health performance.

The MDCHD has also strengthened its cause for a preventative approach to health, continuing to promote healthy lifestyles and a healthier environment through the Make Healthy Happen Miami initiative.

In September, we hosted a showcase detailing our achievements in tackling the obesity epidemic, while sharing new ideas and objectives with our many partners in the community. We're currently working with the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department to establish an Open Space Master Plan, which will create more places for people to exercise and be active. Our Healthy Food Hub Initiative will improve access to healthier food, at the same time providing social services and business incentives to enliven high-need communities.

We owe it to our dedicated and creative staff, and our numerous allies in the community, for helping us develop a comprehensive approach to public health. By developing our capacity to address public health threats, while also empowering residents to reduce their health risks, we will be ready for any challenges 2012 has to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lillian Rivera". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lillian Rivera, R.N., M.S.N., Ph.D

Administrator

Miami-Dade County Health Department



Community and Family Health



School Health

Bringing Health to Students

The School Health Program strives to promote healthy, lifelong behaviors and prevent diseases through health awareness and education. Our philosophy is that prevention and education are keys to improved health and academic outcomes. Youth who are healthy and safe are most likely to be successful throughout their education.

The student demographic is constantly changing, especially with regard to the quantity and complexity of physical and mental health conditions that affect the learning process. An increasing number of children are going to school with certain disabilities or special needs that must be addressed and managed during school hours.

Partnerships have been established with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Children's Trust, among others, to address the growing needs of health services in schools. Now more students have access to health services during the school day.

During the 2010-2011 school year, over 37,000 health conditions were identified through the review of students' emergency information records, physical assessments or physician's diagnosis on medication forms. Additionally, during "2011 Full Time Equivalent Week" for a period of five days, nearly 21,000 health room visits were made by students: 2,274 of those visits were for medication administration, and 5,290 were for students having special procedures performed.

The support of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, The Children's Trust and other caring partners is paramount in meeting the needs of the school in the community and we pledge to safeguard the physical and mental health of the children.



Immunization Services

Vaccinating our Community

The Immunization program provides immunizations for the residents of Miami-Dade County. The program regularly serves both children and adults, with one clinic specializing in travel vaccines. We work with numerous community partners, including the Department of Children and Families, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Board of County Commissioners, to facilitate our residents' access to immunizations. In 2011, we administered over 61,900 vaccines. The immunization program, in collaboration with the School Health Program and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, worked to reduce the number of temporary medical exemptions (TME's) for school age children through education and outreach. Interventions were targeted to private providers, school nurses and other community members. These efforts led to a significant decrease in the number of TME's in our schools and strengthened partnerships.

Women's Health and Preventive Services

Promoting Better Family Health

The Women's Health and Preventive Services (WHPS) program promotes and protects the health and well-being of families in South Florida by providing services and education related to family planning and disease prevention. WHPS operates several programs including the Family Planning Program, Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, Screen for Life Colorectal Cancer Control Program, MOMmobile, Seals on Wheels Dental Care Program, Emergency Room Diversion Fast Track Clinic, and the Florida Family Planning Medicaid for Today's Woman Program. Our program participated in over 54 health fairs providing education and information to over 3,261 residents.

Family Planning

The Family Planning program operates six strategically located family planning clinics in Miami-Dade County, where 22,648 clients received 214,222 services.

Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides screenings to women between the ages of 50-64 who are uninsured and have low income. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, 2,155 women received screenings, consisting of 1,271 mammograms and 980 Pap smears.

Screen for Life Colorectal Cancer Control Program

The Screen for Life Colorectal Cancer Control Program receives funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program targets men and women between the ages of 50 and 64 who have low income at or below the 200% federal poverty guidelines, have no health insurance and meet federal guidelines. In Fiscal Year 2010-2011, the program screened 646 individuals.



MOMmobile

The MOMmobile is a mobile medical unit that provides prenatal and postpartum care in the southern part of Miami-Dade to women who are uninsured and have low-income. In 2010-2011 fiscal year, the MOMmobile provided over 24,220 services to 3,604 clients.

Seals on Wheels Dental Care Program

The mobile dental sealant program provided 9,458 preventive dental services to school-aged children, including the application of 2,485 sealants. In addition, the Seals on Wheels dental staff gave oral health presentations to 2,500 elementary school children.



Emergency Room Diversion Fast Track Clinic

The Emergency Room Diversion Fast Track Clinic was formed through a partnership with Jackson Memorial Hospital to offer services to uninsured patients. Clients are seen by a physician or Advanced Registered Nurse and then linked to a Federally Qualified Primary Care medical home.

Florida Family Planning Medicaid for Today's Woman Program

Through a joint initiative, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) has implemented the Family Planning Medicaid Waiver Program, also known as "Family Planning Medicaid for Today's Woman." This program extends Medicaid coverage for family planning services to all women between the ages of 14 and 55 who have lost their full Medicaid coverage. In 2010-2011 fiscal year, the program extended eligibility coverage to 164 clients.



Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

Helping Families

Pregnant, breast-feeding, and postpartum women, as well as children ages 0 to 5, can receive special nutritional assistance if they meet certain eligibility requirements. Benefits include nutrition counseling and education, breastfeeding support and a monthly package of healthy food. In 2010, the WIC program served 118,430 people at 16 service locations. Our clients received more than \$55.4 million in food benefits. The WIC food package was revised to add fruits and vegetables, whole grain bread, baby food, and, for totally breastfeeding mothers, larger amounts and varieties of food.

WIC maintains a trilingual appointment/information line (786) 336-300. Appointments are available Monday through Saturday to assure access by working families. Breastfeeding assistance is available through a 24-hour help line (786) 336-1336. Callers receive immediate support and, if needed, are referred to lactation consultants or trained peer counselors who offer assistance through WIC offices and several local hospitals.

Vital Records

Best Business Practice

Birth and death certificates can be obtained from the three offices of Vital Statistics located across Miami-Dade County. In 2011, a total of 28,305 children were born in Miami-Dade County and most of those birth records were available to parents within 24 hours. Last year, a total of 18,659 deaths were reported, including 193 fetal deaths.

We served approximately 80,000 clients, including requests by walk-in, mail and online orders. In 2001, our three locations issued 171,599 copies of birth and death certificates. Total sales for the fiscal year 2010-2011 reached \$3,059,207.23.

Our team partners include 30 local hospitals, over 50 funeral homes, birthing centers, midwives, the Medical Examiner Office, hospices, nursery homes, living facilities, VitalChek System, Healthy Start Coalition, and government and federal agencies.



Protecting The Community

Epidemiology and Disease Control

Our program uses epidemiologic methods to monitor and control communicable diseases through active and passive disease surveillance, disease and outbreak investigations, preventive measures and public education. Over the past year, we managed nearly 6,250 cases of illnesses and investigated and controlled 32 disease outbreaks. We also monitor food and waterborne illnesses, as well as vaccinate the public against preventable diseases to ensure the health and safety of residents and visitors. Our goals are to:

- Monitor the community for reportable diseases, unexpected outbreaks or unusual occurrences
- Recommend proper control measures for diseases and ensure a focused response to public health issues and emergencies
- Provide technical support to health care providers in the management of diseases that are of public health importance
- Collect, analyze and disseminate public health data of interest and strengthen public health capacity through research, consultation and training.



Community Health & Planning

The Healthy Start Program

Since 1992, the Healthy Start Program has worked closely with community based providers to reduce infant mortality and the number of low birth weight babies, and improve health and developmental outcomes. By the end of 2011, the program processed 31,747 prenatal and 32,656 postnatal screenings and offered services to at-risk women, infants, children, and fathers. Services included outreach, care coordination, childbirth education, parenting education and support, nutrition counseling, psychosocial counseling, and tobacco education and cessation.

The Community Health Action Team (CHAT)

The Office of Community Health and Planning is comprised of the following programs: the Community Health Action Team, the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade, Communities Putting Prevention to Work, Healthy Start Data Management, Tobacco Prevention and Control, and Worksite Wellness.



The Community Health Action Team (CHAT) responds to requests by the community for a number of needs, including health fairs, health promotion and education services, biometric screenings, immunizations, STD and HIV education, condom distribution, and disaster response information.

During the last fiscal year, the team provided health education to 12,673 people in the community, distributed 47,114 educational brochures, participated in 200 health fairs and health promotion events, performed 5,897 biometric screenings, distributed 13,588 condoms, and educated 1,996 people about HIV and STDs.

Worksite Wellness Program

The Office of Community Health & Planning Worksite Wellness Team offered six comprehensive worksite wellness trainings and partnered with the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade to host seven educational forums and presentations, including the annual 2011 South Florida Worksite Wellness Forum and Awards.

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

Through the work of our Consortium and Tobacco Free Workgroup, several hospitals, colleges and university campuses have gone smoke-free. In addition, the program collaborated with the CPPW and the Florida Department of Health to designate 42 youth oriented parks in Miami-Dade County as tobacco-free, including signage that identifies each of them as "Tobacco Free Zone."



Refugee Health

The Program

The Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP), the largest of its kind in the United States, provides health assessment services to an average of 18,000 refugees each year.

The RHAP protects the health of the general population in Miami-Dade County by identifying and treating eligible, newly-arriving refugees who have communicable diseases; and by reducing and/or eliminating health-related barriers that adversely impact their resettlement into our community. These objectives are accomplished by providing an initial health assessment to refugees. The purpose of the initial health assessment is to identify health conditions, make referrals to healthcare providers if treatment is needed, and to prevent the spread of any communicable diseases. (See Table 1)

Results

In FY 2010-2011, our program provided 17,485 health assessments, which accounted for 94% of all newly-arriving refugees, 4% higher than the national standard. Additionally, the health assessments were provided on an average of 13 days after arrival, 77 days less than the national standard of 90 days. (See Table 1)

During FY 2010-2011, we achieved the highest levels of performance in the State of Florida (See Table 1 & 2) and received a 98% customer satisfaction for the services provided.

Table #1 - Accessibility (%) FY 2010-2011

Miami-Dade	94%
Best Florida Peer County	93%
Florida	91%
National Standard	90%

Accessibility: Access to health assessment services to at least 90% of newly arriving refugees (2) (National Standard)

Table #2 - Timeliness (Average in days) FY 2010-2011

Miami-Dade	13
Best Florida Peer County	35
Florida	23
National Standard	90

Timeliness: Health assessment provided within 90 days of arrival (2) (National Standard)

Table #3 - Services Utilization FY 2010-2011

Health Assessments Provided	17,485
Tuberculosis Screening (TB) Administered	17,426
Laboratory Tests Performed	129,914
Vaccines doses Administered	93,736

Table #4 - Customer Satisfaction FY 2010-2011

Very satisfied and satisfied with the services received	98%
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Customer Satisfaction Survey: sample size: 382 / CI: 97.0 – 99.6

HIV/AIDS

Initiatives Against the Disease

AMIGAS

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defined *AMIGAS* as a “Best Evidence HIV Intervention.” *AMIGAS* is a project that targeted a diverse group of Hispanic women with a comprehensive approach to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Participants had reported more consistent condom use, greater effectiveness in using condoms, and an improved capacity for engaging in safer sex.

Take Control

This initiative provided HIV/AIDS and STD education to approximately 18,000 individuals from October 2010 to September 2011. A total of 1,085 HIV tests were conducted at these events in an effort to increase the number of residents that know their status, thereby reducing the spread of HIV.

Test Miami

Launched in 2009, this unprecedented collaborative effort continues to enhance and develop strategies for addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis in Miami-Dade. This initiative promotes routine HIV testing by physicians, improves Miami-Dade residents’ understanding of the disease, and ultimately reduces its transmission. This has been accomplished through a variety of innovative approaches, including a social marketing campaign, public education, health care training, and creative promotional items.

Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan

The Miami-Dade Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan was developed by the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) and its partners to reduce new HIV infections, increase access to care, improve health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS, reduce HIV related disparities, and provide a more coordinated response against the disease. This plan aligns our program with the goal of the National HIV strategy in order to address the high rates of HIV in Miami-Dade. In 2011, the MDCHD received additional funds to continue implementing the plan and conduct a review of its effectiveness.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Improved Access to Services

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Control and Prevention program works on preventing the spread of STDs and HIV in our community. During 2011, Miami-Dade saw a decrease in all reportable STDs (not including HIV) with the exception of Chlamydia, which is found mostly in teens and young adults. Since new infections among adolescents remain a concern, the STD program actively participated in delivering on-site awareness education and screening to middle and senior high school students, mentors, instructors, and college and university students. This has resulted in improved access to STD/HIV services and treatment for new infections.

In January 2011, we celebrated a successful nine years partnership with the Miami-Dade County Corrections Health Services and Corrections and Rehabilitation Departments to increase STD/HIV education, screening, and treatment services to inmates. Such interventions not only reduce the existing disease rates within the prison system, but they also contribute to the decrease of disease transmission.

In 2010-2011, the Health District Center served as a host site for a nationwide review led by the University of Miami to compare the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of various approaches for reducing STD incidence, risky sexual behaviors, and substance abuse during sex. The Miami site had one of the highest recruitment and follow-up rates. The results will be forthcoming and used for future planning.

Some facts about STD in Miami-Dade: (ages 15-24)

- Approximately 20 individuals are diagnosed with an STD every day.
- Approximately one individual is diagnosed with an STD every hour.
- During the time it takes to attend an average day at school, seven students are diagnosed with an STD.

(All ages)

- Approximately 34 individuals are diagnosed with an STD every day.
- During the time it takes to attend a Miami Heat game, 4 people are diagnosed with an STD.



Tuberculosis Control and Prevention Program

I Am ABOUT TB – Aware Because Our Universe Thinks

The Tuberculosis Control and Prevention Program (TB Program) works to identify, treat, and prevent the spread of tuberculosis disease in Miami-Dade County. This is accomplished through the operation of clinical, investigative, surveillance, and outreach services.

Our county has seen a downward trend in the total number of TB cases, from 268 in 2004 to 152 in 2011. This progress was sustained despite a 32% decrease in our funding, from 2004 to 2011. A total of 21 positions, including nurses, field workers and physicians, were lost from 2004-2011.

The 8th Annual World TB Day conference was celebrated in 2011 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. World TB Day is used by the program to engage and educate health care professionals and community partners, and create awareness against the disease.

The Tuberculosis Control and Prevention Program runs three clinics in Miami-Dade, where 10,905 clients received over 50,000 TB related services in 2011.



Laboratory Services

Laboratory tests are among the most important aspects of modern medicine. The majority of health care decisions are based on clinical laboratory tests that are vital to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of numerous illnesses and diseases.

The laboratory program at the MDCHD provides a variety of tests and services for the patients and clients who are seen at 20 clinics. The range of medical needs for which laboratory services are required include sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, family planning, refugee health, and health care for women and children. In 2011, about 300,000 tests were performed. Over 120,000 were done during the patients' visits.

Public Health Preparedness Program

Planning and Preparing for Community Emergencies

The Public Health Preparedness Program ensures that there is a continuous, county-wide capability to respond to any possible public health emergency and disaster in Miami-Dade County.

This year the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) established its secondary emergency command center, which includes innovative technological tools for emergency preparedness, at the recently built Health District Center. The command center will support the Public Health Preparedness role as the county health and medical lead during emergencies and disasters.

Our program met the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by the Project Public Health Ready for national preparedness certification, while the National Association of County and City Health Officials recognized the MDCHD for its ability to respond to public health emergencies.

The Hospital Preparedness Consortium, established to serve as a forum for hospitals to address health care emergency preparedness, celebrated its 5th anniversary. Through the commitment and collaboration of local health care partners, and the growth in coordinated preparedness response, we remain prepared to serve the 2.5 million county residents and visitors in the event of an emergency.

Our Medical Reserve Corps is currently the 2nd largest unit in the State of Florida, with approximately 2,000 volunteers. These include physicians, nurses, and other health professionals who volunteer to assist the community during large scale emergencies.





Community Relations

Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs

Informing the Community

The Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs continuously strives for new and innovative approaches for keeping the community informed about all aspects of public health.

Our strong relationship with media outlets resulted in hundreds of new health stories in English, Spanish and Creole. In addition, our staff also served as guests on numerous television and radio talk shows. Our office was instrumental in helping programs disseminate their public health messages to the community.

The Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs is vital to the emergency response of the Miami-Dade County Health Department and works closely with the Miami-Dade County Emergency Operations Center. The office is a member of the South Florida Media Coalition and participates in their meetings and events. The Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs works closely with community partners in delivering the public health message.

Creating and Expanding Public Health Resources

In seeking opportunities to expand public health resources, the Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs continues to partner with elected and appointed officials, working closely with legislators and county and city officials.

Our office assisted in securing legislative appropriation of county land for the construction of a clinic in Liberty City.

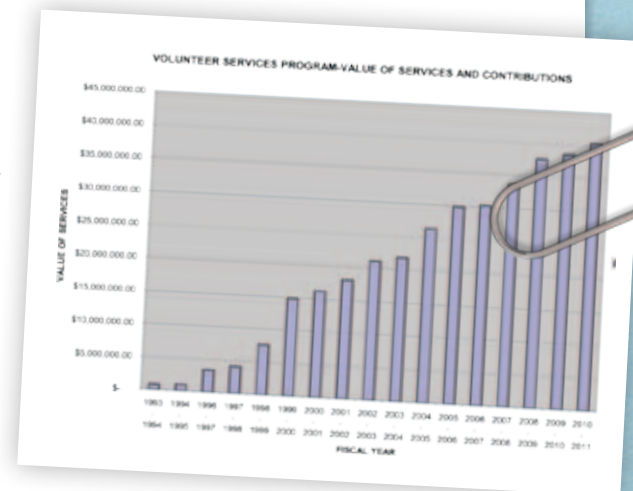
In 2011, we hosted an Art Dedication Ceremony of the new District Health Center to commemorate the people who have been involved in public health service since the inception of the Miami-Dade County Health Department.

Volunteer Services

The mission of the Volunteer Health Services Program is to promote access to quality health care for the medically underserved and uninsured residents of Florida through the commitment of volunteers.

From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 more than 3,691 volunteers, student interns and residents supported our department by working in free clinics throughout the county. They provided care to more than 78,000 uninsured and underserved men, women and children. The value of their donated services exceeded \$40 million. These statistics only scratched the surface because they do not include the immense contributions made by our many other community partners and staff.

The key to the continued success of these volunteer initiatives is the sustained support of various professional associations, public/private partners, and individuals who are committed to the wellbeing of local communities.



Environmental Health And Engineering

Protecting Against Environmental Hazards

The division of Environmental Health and Engineering is responsible for protecting the community from all environmental hazards. Key functions include safe drinking water, beach monitoring and public notifications, indoor air quality, community hygiene, food safety and group care facilities, biomedical waste, public bathing places, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, and public health preparedness and response.

From July 2010 to 2011, Environmental Health staff inspected 1,206 public sanitary nuisance complaints, investigated the Miami Beach Hookworm condition, initiated a lead awareness and community outreach effort, conducted 25,392 facility inspections and 18,148 environmental quality investigations, and took 5,591 water samples for local laboratory testing and analysis.

We also gave more than 10 media interviews regarding food safety and facility sanitation, pool safety and condition of beach waters, among other topics.

Our staff partnered with the University of Miami and Florida International University (FIU) on multiple public health studies, including research on beach management and assessing the microbial quality of beach sand.

In the fiscal year 2010-2011, Environmental Health generated approximately \$3,000,000 in revenue from local and State fees, which has made the program more financially independent. Currently, only 20% of our total operating budget is supported by the State's general revenue funds. Our goal is to achieve a budget that is totally supported by our fees.





Highlights



Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite

The Breastfeeding Task Force of Miami-Dade, an initiative of the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade, recognized the Miami-Dade County Health Department as a “Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite” for passing lactation support policies in the workplace. Dr. Lillian Rivera, the MDCHD’s Administrator, received the plaque in a ceremony held at Jungle Island.

Cities Readiness Initiative

Our Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) scored big recently after the Greater Miami Area was selected among the top regions in the nation for disaster preparedness. With an average score of 91.6 out of 100, Miami ranked 8th place out of 79 metropolitan areas measured, according to a report by Forbes magazine. This means that the Miami region met the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) strict standards for disaster readiness.

CRI is a federally funded effort that has allowed cities to enhance disaster planning through partnerships and workshops with local communities and institutions. A major component of the CRI plan is a system of emergency medical distribution centers. Nearly 200 of our staff and volunteers were trained by a CRI team in how to respond to public health disasters. Between April and June 2011, our Public Health Preparedness Program conducted three tabletop exercises, and one full-scale drill in October of 2011.

Preventing Lead Poisoning

The Miami-Dade County Health Department’s Lead and Healthy Homes program launched a campaign in October 2011 to promote awareness in our community about lead poisoning and what families can do to prevent it.

Today, childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children, yet an estimated 250,000 U.S. children have elevated blood lead levels. The local initiative by the Lead and Healthy Homes program was done as part of the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

National Recognition

The Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) was recognized this summer at the Annual Conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for developing a program in response to local public health needs that demonstrated exemplary and replicable qualities. The MDCHD’s “Innovative 2009 H1N1 Influenza Surveillance” initiative was considered a model for others to follow, and the Department was selected as one of only 41 local health departments in the country to receive NACCHO’s Model Practice Award.

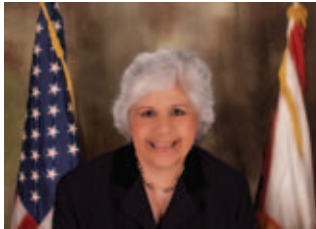
Environmental Outreach

The Environmental Health and Engineering Division completed an outreach campaign in our community, educating high school students on wildlife and the environment and strengthening a partnership with the University of Miami.

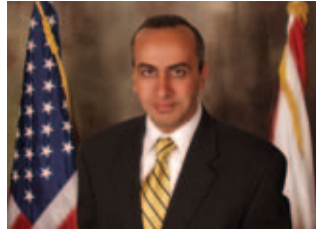
The educational event took place at Biscayne National Park and was part of an initiative called Bio-Blitz, which brought together staff from Environmental Health and students from local schools.

The program has also intensified its crucial five year partnership with the University of Miami Oceans and Human Health Center, continuing work on scientific projects that may help future environmental monitoring and improvement efforts.

Senior Leaders



Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD
Administrator



Samir Elmir, MS, PE, DEE
Division Director, Environmental Health
and Engineering



Yesenia D. Villalta, MSN, ARNP
Director, Women's Health & Preventive Services



Thomas Burns, MPH
Program Manager, STD



Alicia Reyes-Perez, RN, BSN
Director, Public Health Preparedness



Karen Weller, RN, BSN, ICCE
Director, Office of Community Health and Planning



Olga Connor, BA
Director, Office of Communications
& Legislative Affairs



Morton Laitner, Esq.
Chief Legal Counsel



Reynald Jean, MD, MPH
Director, TB Program



Pamela Toomer, RN, BSN, MPH, NCSN
Director, School Health Program



Denise West, RD, LD/N, MPH
Director, WIC & Nutrition



Rene Ynestroza, MBA, MSMIS
Senior Public Health Services Manager



Maribel Zayas, BPA, JD
Financial Administrator



Credits

Governor - **Rick Scott**

Lt. Governor - **Jennifer Carroll**

County Commission (2011)

District 1 - **Barbara J. Jordan**

District 2 - **Jean Monestime**

District 3 - **Audrey Edmonson**

District 4 - **Sally A. Heyman**

District 5 - **Bruno A. Barreiro**

District 6 - **Rebeca Sosa**

District 7 - **Xavier L. Suarez**

District 8 - **Lynda Bell**

District 9 - **Dennis C. Moss**

District 10 - **Javier D. Souto**

District 11 - **Joe A. Martinez**

District 12 - **José “Pepe” Díaz**

District 13 - **Esteban Bovo, Jr.**

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Florida Senate

Sen. Oscar Braynon, II

Sen. Nan H. Rich

Sen. Gwen Margolis

Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla

Sen. Anitere Flores

Sen. Larcenia Bullard

Sen. Rene Garcia

Florida House of Representatives

Rep. Eduardo Gonzalez

Rep. Barbara Watson

Rep. John Patrick Julien

Rep. Richard L. Steinberg

Rep. Luis R. Garcia

Rep. Daphne Campbell

Rep. Cynthia Stafford

Rep. Jose Oliva

Rep. Erik Fresen

Rep. Jeanette Nuñez

Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera

Rep. Ana Rivas Logan

Rep. Jose Felix Diaz

Rep. Carlos Trujillo

Rep. Michael Bileca

Rep. Dwight M. Bullard

Rep. Frank Artiles

Rep. Ron Saunders



Y O U R H E A L T H I S O U R B U S I N E S S



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